

**RURAL VICTORIAN COMMUNITY CHILD HEALTH
TRAINING PROGRAM**

**Paediatric unit
Goulburn Valley Health Shepparton**

**Centre for Community Child Health
Royal Children's Hospital
Parkville Victoria**

Developed by:
Dr Peter Eastaugh and Dr Jill Sewell
Reviewed July 08

RURAL VICTORIAN COMMUNITY CHILD HEALTH TRAINING

Introduction: The Rural Victorian Community Child Health Training Program has been developed in conjunction with the Victorian Training Program in Community Child Health to provide an opportunity for training of Consultant Paediatric Physicians in a rural community. This will provide knowledge and skills in child health development and welfare in a rural community.

The program will be based in Shepparton and at the Centre for Community Child Health Royal Children's Hospital. The program will be for one year of training either for General Paediatricians or for Paediatricians who wish to specialize in Community Child Health.

Goals:

The goals in addition to those in the Victorian Community Child Health Training Program are:

1. Improve health outcome for rural children in particular indigenous children or children in isolated communities.
2. Expose Paediatric Physician Trainees to rural child health.

Structure of the Program:

The program has four main components:

1. Clinical
2. Teaching
3. Research
4. Training

Clinical:

Clinical Paediatric Medicine: Clinical paediatric medicine will be undertaken with Paediatrician supervision in a General Paediatric Ward Special Care Nursery and Delivery Suite.

Associated with this clinical activity are quality assurance activities Specialist Paediatric Outpatient Services and Aboriginal Health Services.

Attendance at the Specialist Paediatric Outpatient Clinic provides the opportunity to consult on patients with supervision. The Consultant Paediatricians are available on a daily basis for consultation regarding community referrals and a weekly supervision session will occur.

Acute Child Health: Involvement in the General Paediatric aspect of child health will involve supervision of Resident Medical Staff available for acute emergencies and taking responsibility as part of the on call roster with a supervising Paediatrician available at all times.

Clinical Community Experience: Clinical community experience is gained by community referrals – Maternal & Child Health, Specialist Children’s Services, Child & Family Mental Health Services, Child Protection, Youth Service.

The community referrals will be undertaken either at the community hospital or at individual community service establishments.

At least half of the time the Fellow will be involved in community activities. These community activities will involve-

General Practitioners

Allied Health Workers

Maternal & Child Health and Community Nurses

Department of Human Services: This includes Specialist Children’s Services Child Protection and Intellectual Disability Services

S.C.O.P.E.

Local schools (see appendix)

Child and Family Mental Health Services

The Bridge Youth Service

Koori Health Service-Rumbalara

The Fellow will be involved in multidisciplinary activities associated with all of these organizations and will attend intake meetings and planning meetings with community personnel.

Child Protection Services will be under the supervision of the Consultant Paediatricians and there is the opportunity to participate in paediatric forensic examination for child victims of sexual assault.

Teaching:

The Trainee will be expected to participate in hospital and community teaching sessions.

Hospital: Resident Medical Officer Training, particularly for the high proportion of overseas trained practitioners, is a requirement.

Paediatric & Midwifery Nurse Teaching: To maintain updated education of nursing staff.

Medical Students: The Goulburn Valley Hospital is part of the University Department of Rural Health based in Shepparton. Medical students from the Rural Clinical School complete the bulk of their paediatric training within Shepparton. Trainees are expected to be participate in the delivery of the paediatric curriculum for Melbourne University.

Community: The Fellow will also be involved in speaking to local community groups interested in child health and welfare which would also include parent groups service clubs and carers.

Research:

Research will be developed in conjunction with the Consultant Paediatricians. A number of research projects are available for trainee involvement. Trainees may wish to actively continue a research program towards an M.D. or PhD, and will be actively supported in doing so.

Training:

Cooperative training with the Royal Children's Hospital Seminar program one day per week, and attendance at subspecialist clinics at the Centre for Community Child Health every second week for training purposes.

Active involvement in the Local Paediatricians Journal Club and ongoing educational activities.

Weekly sessions as part of the Victorian rural advanced trainee training video conferences.

Participants:

The Rural Victorian Training Program will be suitable for Advanced Trainees in their preparation for Fellowship and for future trainees in Community Child Health.

The participants will be fourth to sixth year Paediatric Trainees having completed the basic training, the FRACP written and clinical examinations.

Supervision:

Paediatric Unit Goulburn Valley Health Shepparton –

Dr. Peter Eastaugh Paediatrician,
Dr. Dan Garrick Paediatrician,
Dr. Ian Skelton Paediatrician,
Dr. Andy Lovett Paediatrician

University Department of Rural Health-

Prof. Dawn Dewitt Professor of Rural Health.

Royal Children's Hospital –

Dr. Jill Sewell Deputy Director Centre for Community Child Health
Director of VTP in CCH.

Orientation:

Orientation will occur as part of the Victorian Training Program in Community Child Health Orientation Program in addition to a local orientation program which will introduce the Trainee to the University Department, the individual community resources, the local facilities which will be scattered throughout the north-eastern Victorian region.

APPENDIX 1

Outreach clinic at Mooroopna Park Primary School

Aims:

The Fellow in Rural Paediatrics (based at Goulburn Valley Health) is a participant in the Victorian Training Program in Community Child Health.

This program was developed to equip trainees with knowledge and skills to provide care for children with developmental, behavioural and psychosocial problems in the context of their family and community.

Children spend a great deal of time at school, school hours and after school programs. Schools have a major role and presence in the community.

Engaging with families may be easier in the school setting, hopefully overcoming barriers to attending such as lack of transport, adverse views of hospital or reluctance to acknowledge the possibility of a problem with their child.

School setting should facilitate easier communication between parents, teachers and paediatrician

-

-

Criteria for this service:

-

1. No Paediatrician already involved
2. Parental agreement
3. Parents to attend initial and follow up consultations
4. No acute health issues-they should be seen by GP or ED at GVH as appropriate
5. Physical examination and investigations to be done at GVH
6. To have a GVH unit record number which will contain the notes and letters from the consultation (as if outpatients)
7. Paediatric Fellow will set aside a set time regularly for this clinic e.g. one afternoon a fortnight/month.
8. Mooroopna Park Primary School to make available a room for consultation where privacy can be maintained.

Supervision:

Children will be discussed with a consultant Paediatrician (Dr Peter Eastaugh).

If ongoing management needed when Paediatric Fellow completes their time here, transition to a Paediatrician will need to be via referral from the general practitioner.

Involved Parties:

Chief Medical Officer GVH

Paediatric Fellow

Peter Eastaugh, Supervising Paediatrician

Principal of Mooroopna Park Primary School (M.P.P.S.)

Assistant Principal, M.P.P.S.

Welfare coordinator, M.P.P.S.

